

BILLERICAY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1924.

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Billericay Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1924.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BILLERICAY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your district for 1923. As you are aware the Ministry of Health require a Survey Report once in five years. At other times an Ordinary Report is asked for. This one is an Ordinary Report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Acreage: 48,919 acres, exclusive of the area covered by water.

Population: Census of 1921, 24,257, the Registrar-General's figure on which the vital statistics are calculated is 25,070.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 5858 (approximate).

Number of Families or separate Occupiers: 6,297 (approximate).

Rateable Value: £154,225.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate: £582 11s. 9d.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		M.	F.	Total	Birth Rate (R.G.)
Births	} Legitimate }	210...	178...	} ... 398	15.8
		5...	5...		Birth Rate 1922
					16.7
Deaths				} ... 260	Death Rate (R.G.)
		149...	111...		10.37
					Death Rate 1922
					10.6

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

From Sepsis..... nil
 „ other causes..... 1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate...14 Illegitimate...3 Total 17

Infantile Mortality Rate..... 45·2

„ „ „ (1922) 57·3

Deaths from Measles (all ages) nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 5

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) nil

The number of deaths from Cancer in this district in the year was 29. This means that one out of every nine deaths in this district is due to Cancer, giving a mortality rate of 111·5 per 1,000. Last year the mortality rate for Cancer was 132·1 per 1,000. Although actually in this year the mortality rate from Cancer is less than last year, there has been, taken over a period of ten years, a gradual increase in the mortality rate from this disease.

In looking through the deaths from Cancer, one finds that in the majority of cases this disease occurs in the alimentary system, and I hold the opinion very strongly, that the tendency towards constipation, which is very marked amongst the population to-day, is a contributory cause of the production of Cancer. The toxins which are formed in the body and which should normally be eliminated daily from the body, are not eliminated in these cases, they are re-absorbed into the circulatory system and set up a poisoning, which causes the moderating of the vitality of the more actively functioning portions of the human body.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	11	5	—
Scarlet Fever	47	36	—
Erysipelas	4	1	—
Pneumonia	4	1	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Chicken Pox	16	2	—
Enteric Fever	1	1	1
	—	—	—
	84	46	1
	—	—	—

There were 25 cases admitted into the Isolation Hospital from the Brentwood Urban District in addition to the above.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...		1		1				
1	...			3	1				
5	...	1			1				
10	...	2		2	1				
15	...	2	2		1				
20	...	3	6		1				
25	...	12	14	2	1				
35	...	6	3		1				
45	...	3	4		1				
55	...		1						
65 and upwards.		1	1						
Total		30	32	7	9	12	7	3	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum..... nil.

There were no causes of sickness and invalidity specially noteworthy during the year

**TABLE SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES OCCURRING
IN THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES.**

Parish	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Chicken Pox	
South Weald	...	8	...	12	...	4
Shenfield	...	—	...	2	...	—
Hutton	...	—	...	10	—	1
Ingrave	...	—	...	1	...	—
Mountnessing	...	—	...	2	...	—
Great Burstead	...	—	...	4	...	1
Little Burstead	...	1	...	2	...	—
Ramsden Bellhouse	...	—	...	—	...	3
Laindon	...	—	...	4	...	—
Nevendon	...	1	...	—	...	—
Wickford	...	—	...	3	...	—
Pitsea	...	—	...	—	...	4
Vange	...	—	...	1	...	—
Bowers Gifford	...	—	...	3	...	1
Downham	...	—	...	—	...	1
Basildon	...	1	...	—	...	1
North Benfleet	...	—	...	2	...	—
Childerditch	...	—	...	1	...	—

SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home. (a) General.

In nearly all the Parishes, or in combinations of Parishes, there are District Nursing Associations. These are voluntary and are affiliated to the County Nursing Association. The nurses are employed mainly in maternity work, but are available for other classes of non-infectious cases as far as their maternity work permits. The District Council has no jurisdiction over these Associations, but subscribes to some of them.

(b) There is no provision for home nursing of cases of infectious disease.

Midwives. There are twelve Certified Midwives in the District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. The work of Maternity and Child Welfare, School Clinics, Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease is carried out directly by the County Council and their Officers. Officially, I know of no Child Welfare Clinics, but unofficially I have heard a rumour of two being at work in this district; one in Billericay and one in South Weald. It is also rumoured that the School doctor attends these clinics and even prescribes treatment.

Hospitals. There are no Tuberculosis, Maternity or Children's Hospitals in the district. The Billericay Poor Law Institution Hospital has a Maternity Department which is very fully used.

Fever. The Isolation Hospital for the district is situated at Gooseberry Green and is of a modern type. It has 22 beds, it also takes in the fever cases from the Brentwood Urban District. The Hospital was fully used last year, often to its full capacity, the majority of cases being scarlet fever. The work done by the whole of the indoor and outdoor staff of the Hospital on the year has been very satisfactory. I would like to record my thanks to the Matron and the nursing staff for their zealous care in the discharge of their duties. There have been no complaints from patients who have been in the Hospital and there have been testimonies from several, of the care and attention which they or their relatives have received when in Hospital.

Small Pox. This Council has an arrangement with the County Borough of West Ham, whereby any cases of small pox which arise in the district are taken into Orsett Hospital.

The Brentwood Cottage Hospital situated on Shenfield Common is the only General Voluntary Hospital in the district and is always fully used. The Billericay Poor Law Institution Hospital is also a

a General Hospital and there is always a great demand for accommodation here. The Guardians of Billericay Union are erecting an additional block containing twelve beds, at the Poor Law Institution Hospital; these twelve beds being six for male and six for female cases. This addition is specially designed for cases of tuberculosis.

The War Memorial Nursing Home at Wickford has two beds available for Maternity, Accident or Non-infectious cases. These beds are available only to parishioners of Wickford and the charge for them ranges from £2 per week upwards.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children other than the Poor Law Institution.

Ambulance Facilities. This Authority now has a motor ambulance for infectious cases. A Red Cross Society's Motor Ambulance is stationed in Brentwood and is available for non-infectious and accident cases.

LABORATORY WORK.

This is done by Dr. John F. Beale, the County Bacteriologist, at 91, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. It is done free of charge by arrangement of the County Council and this service is much used and appreciated.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations.

Acts.

Urban Powers under Public Health Act 1875, sections 169.
(Part District). 2nd and 3rd paragraphs and section 170 in respect to Slaughter Houses.

Urban Powers under Public Health Act 1875, section 157 and 158.
(Part District). With respect to air space, drainage, water closets, etc.
(Whole of District.) Public Health Act Amendment Act 1890,
section 23 and section 157 of P.H.A. 1875.

(Whole of District) Public Health Act Amendment Act 1890, part
III, as far as applicable.

(Whole of District). Infectious Diseases Notification Act 1889.

Bye-Laws.

- I. Bye-laws with respect to "Slaughter Houses" adopted by Council 2nd July, 1912, allowed by Local Government Board 19th August, 1912.
- II. Bye-laws with respect to "Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures" adopted by Council 27th July, 1915, allowed by Local Government Board 30th September, 1915.

- III. Bye-laws with respect to "Nuisances" adopted by Council 18th July, 1922, allowed by the Ministry of Health 3rd October, 1922.
- IV. Bye-laws with respect to "New Streets and Buildings" adopted by Council 27th February, 1923, allowed by the Ministry of Health 18th April, 1923.
- V. Bye-laws in respect of "Lodging Houses" adopted 1886.

REGULATIONS.

- I. Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops adopted by Council 24th December, 1906.

This Council have had under consideration this year, the amendment of their Bye-laws and Regulations relating to dairies and cowsheds. It is hoped by this to get a greater efficiency in the sanitation of the cowsheds, and also by laying down more in detail the requirements for a modern cowshed and dairy to give help to the farmer, especially to such as are starting dairy farming and require either to build a new cowshed, or to convert an old shed for the purpose.

Article 19 Sanitary Officers Order 1922.

General inspection of the district is carried out and records kept of defects found.

As regards the conversion of pail and earth closets to water closets; the district being mostly rural in character, large areas are without sewerage. Consequently a considerable number of pail and earth closets still exist.

Number of water closets 2,888

Number of pail or earth closets 2,691

The places where food is prepared are inspected frequently. These include Fried Fish Shops, Bakeries, Butchers' premises.

Notices as to cleanliness, etc., are served as necessary.

Slaughter Houses.

There are sixteen Slaughter Houses in the district, six of these are licensed and ten registered. These are kept in a satisfactory state, frequent inspections are made and the occupiers called upon to cleanse and lime wash as necessary.

Arrangements for Disinfection.

Houses are disinfected by fumigation or spraying with formalin ;

bedding and clothing being disinfected at the Isolation Hospital. Printed instructions of precautions are distributed.

The Thresh steam disinfecter at the Hospital having become worn out, this was replaced during the year by a new "Velox" steam pressure disinfecter. Very full use is made of this disinfecter.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The total number of registered cowkeepers in the district is now 111, thirty-six applications for registration having been made during the year, sixteen as wholesale producers, fifteen as producers and retail purveyors, five as retail purveyors. Two cowkeepers closed down and four changed hands.

Notices for improvement were served in thirteen cases and the notices were complied with. Eleven new cowsheds have been constructed during the year, six new dairies have been erected. In eleven other cases improvements were asked for and made to cowsheds without services of a notice. Two hundred and twenty inspections of cowsheds and dairies were made during the year and it is very pleasant to again note the continued improvement in the method of milk production and in the general care and cleanliness of the methods of collecting and disposing of the milk.

Legal proceedings, summonses 3, convictions 3, fines £2 in each case.

Food and Drugs Act	}	Administered by the County Council
Milk and Cream Regulations		

Action as to smoke abatement nil

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. J. DOUGLAS WELLS, O.B.E. (Mil.) a part time officer.

Mr. S. J. SHELLEY, Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. R. J. W. LAYLAND, M.R.S.I., M.I.M., Consulting Engineer.

Mr. H. B. MAYHEW, P.A.S.I., Surveyor.

Housing Department.

Mr. E. SIMPKIN, Assistant Surveyor.

Mr. J. G. GOZZETT, Building Surveyor.

HOUSING.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) No. of new houses erected | 664 |
| (b) With State assistance | nil |

I. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(i)	No. of houses inspected for housing defects under P.H.A. and Housing Acts	524
(ii)	No. of houses recorded under Housing (inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.....	283
(iii)	No. of houses found to be in such a state as to be dangerous or injurious to health or to be unfit for human habitation	21
(iv)	No. of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	162

In addition there were 17 caravans, so found.

II. Remedy of Defects Without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers	16
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III. Action Under Statutory Notices.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919

(i)	No. of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	14
(ii)	No. of houses rendered fit	
	(a) By owners	12
	(b) By Local Authority	nil
(iii)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i)	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	123
(ii)	No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied	
	(a) by owners	108
	(b) by local authority in default of owners.....	1

During the year seven summons were taken out, and seven convictions obtained.

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, and Town Planning Act 1909.

(i)	No. of representations with a view to Closing Orders	3
(ii)	No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(iii)	No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	nil
(iv)	No. in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(v)	No. of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil

SCHOOLS.

Twenty-six inspections of schools were made during the year.

The County Education Authority has decided to build a new school at Ramsden Crays, giving additional accommodation. This is a much needed improvement, the present building being in no way suited to the requirements of a modern school.

The population of the district is increasing fairly fast. New houses are being put up all over the district, this means an ever increasing number of children to go to school. The problem of additional accommodation in very many of the schools will have to have serious consideration in the very near future.

The following table shows the present accommodation for which the schools were designed and the number of children on the books on December 4th.

It will be seen from this that at Dunton, North Benfleet, Ramsden Crays, Pitsea and Vange schools the number of scholars is in excess of the accommodation, and that in Bowers Gifford, Great Burstead, Ingrave, Laindon, Ramsden Bellhouse, Bentley and Wickford (Church) Schools the number of scholars is within a dozen of the accommodation.

School	Accommodation	No. of Scholars on Register
Bowers Gifford	70	62
Dunton	40	47
Downham	64	45
Great Burstead	162	152
Hutton	80	35
Ingrave	156	146
Laindon	138	126
Little Burstead	66	40

School	Accommodation		No. of Scholars on Register
Little Warley	80	...	47
Mountnessing	168	...	92
North Benfleet	54	...	68
Pitsea	264	...	336
Ramsden Bellhouse	101	...	98
Ramsden Crays	70	...	81
Shenfield	204	...	113
South Weald (Bentley)	153	...	149
South Weald (Crescent Road)	186	...	124
South Weald (Junction Road)	250	...	235
South Weald (Village)	128	...	82
Vange	181	...	198
Wickford (Church)	140	...	134
Wickford (Council)	170	...	159

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

J. DOUGLAS WELLS, O.B.E., M.B.

